

January 27, 2020 Minutes – NH Hospital Association, Concord NH  
Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician Work Group

Attendees – John Genovese (NH BOP), Gary Merchant (NHBOP), Tina Genovese, Anne Fellows (NACDS), Richard Stefanik, Maryann Cooper (NHPA), Kaitlyn Simoneau (Shaw's/Osco), William Schimmel (PTCB), Robert Stout (NHPA), Nathaniel Sides (Hannaford), Janet Silvester (ASHP), Joe Allen (Pillpack), Lindsey Fontaine (Wal-Mart), David DePiero (Concord Hospital), Roy Courchaine (Rite Aid), Ann Burns (APhA), Robert Theriault Jr. (WDH), Amanda Chuk (D-H),

Via phone: Allie Jo Simpson (NASPA), Juliane Hegle (VT HiTech), Ann Burns (APhA), Jeremy Sasser (NHA), Amy Rice (CMC), Nicki Chopski (Idaho BOP),

This was the fifth meeting of a board of pharmacy work group created to develop rules related to a new category of licensure, Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician or LAPT. The group met from 1:10PM until 3:50PM with several attending via tele-conference.

- 1) Meeting opened at 1:10PM by the Chair (John Genovese) with introductions.
- 2) Motion by Tina Genovese, second by Nathaniel Sides to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion was approved with unanimous consent.
- 3) Scope of Practice – work group reviewed the scope of practice for a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician approved at the October meeting. Group discussion on a suggested revision by Robert Theriault Jr. Following discussion, consensus was to adopt a revised scope of practice.

Under general supervision of a licensed pharmacist, a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician shall complete responsibility for advanced technical and supporting activities, commensurate with their competencies, training and education. A Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician shall be allowed to perform all duties, tasks, or activities a licensed pharmacy may legally perform, except:

- a) Drug Utilization Review (evaluate or interpret a prescription or drug order)
  - b) Clinical conflict resolution
  - c) Contacting the prescriber regarding alteration or modification of therapy
  - d) Patient counseling related to the clinical use of a medication
  - e) Verify or approve a compounded medication
  - f) Perform any duty or task that a State or Federal law or regulation requires a licensed pharmacist to perform
  - g) Perform any duty or task that requires clinical judgement
- 4) Q&A with Nicki Chopski, Executive Director Idaho Board of Pharmacy

- a) Nicki mentioned a study that 44% of a pharmacist daily work is technical in nature
- b) Legal authority of a technician flows through the license of the pharmacist who delegated a task to a technician. The pharmacist is responsible for knowing the competency of the technician they delegate a task. However, the board may hold the technician responsible for following instructions provided by the pharmacist.
- c) Pharmacist has final say on what tasks they delegate to a pharmacy technician.
- d) Technician product verification in a community pharmacy is only allowed with bar code technology.
- e) Technician may administer a vaccine. Approval to administer a vaccine can only be done by a pharmacist.
- f) Regional chains have been early adopters to expanding the pharmacist's and technician's role
- g) A license is personal property and protected by personal property rights, as registration is a list of individuals who are registered with the board as technicians.
- h) Point shares with the work group:
  - i) Focus pharmacists working at the top of their license and competency
  - ii) Trust pharmacists have the best interest of the patient
  - iii) When possible, base decisions of the evidence or data
  - iv) Do not focus on the one offs – rules by exception

5) PTCB presentation by William Schimmel (slides attached to the minutes)

William Schimmel reviewed the mission and vision of PTCB. PTCB is a collaborative entity between NABP, APhA, ASHP, ICHP, and MPhA.

- a) PTCB offers credentialing for entry level technicians (CPhT), and three advanced level certifications in compounding, medication history, product verification. On the horizon are certifications in hazardous drug management, billing and reimbursement, and controlled substance diversion prevention. Advance level certifications are available only to PTCB Certified Pharmacy Technicians.

- b) Proposed PTCB CPhT-Adv would be an active PTCB Certified Technician who has completed at least 4 advanced certifications and has at least 3 years of work as a CPhT in the past 8 years.
- c) Bill reviewed in-depth the process to develop an exam from job analysis, exam blueprint, develop items, assemble forms, set standard, equate forms, publish and administer, and issue resolution.
- d) Bill reviewed four potential approaches to assist New Hampshire with licensure of a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician from the least effort and cost to the greatest.
  - i) Utilize PTCB entry level exam in addition to advanced certifications deemed appropriate by the NH board of pharmacy
  - ii) Work with NH BOP to set a mastery-level cut score – same exam with a higher pass rate
  - iii) Review existing domains across all PTCB exams to assemble a custom battery to serve as the LAPT knowledge exam
  - iv) Develop an LAPT exam from the group up, beginning with NH focused practice analysis

#### 6) NABP pre-law exam results

41 CPhTs took the pre-law exam. The pass score was 75 and 24 obtained a score of 65 or greater (60%), an impressive result as the CPhTs relied solely on their experience working in a pharmacy – note that none of the CPhTs completed a prep course for the exam.

191 pharmacy students who completed an ACPE approved prep course took the exam. 66 received a score below 75 or close to one-third failure the exam.

Note – in Canada, pharmacy technicians and pharmacists take the same law exam as both are held accountable to knowing the law.

#### 7) Military Training

Richard Stefanik, retired Army Lt Colonel, provided a broad overview of military training for pharmacy technicians which the Army refers to as a pharmacy specialist. The training is rigorous with 874 hours of education and training that requires passing various modules. A licensed pharmacist provides general oversight of pharmacy specialists, however, pharmacy specialists often work in the field of combat dispensing and compounding medications under general supervision a licensed physician and not a licensed pharmacist.

8) Canadian Technician Exam

Gary Merchant has been in contact with Canadian College of Pharmacy (version of NABP). Waiting to hear back on using their pharmacy technician exam as an international student.

9) Requirements approved by the group

- a) Age requirement - 21
- b) Formal education – High school diploma or GED
- c) Experience – 2,000 hours working as a CPhT within 3 years
- d) Law exam – support taking the same NABP law exam - MJPE
- e) Education – task for the next meeting on March 2, 2020
- f) Knowledge based exam – task for next meeting on March 2, 2020

10) Certified Pharmacy Technician vs. Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician Sheet

Group consensus was to endorse the sheet as it is useful to explain the difference between the two types of technicians. Group recommended changing data verification to data entry validation.

11) Next meeting

- a) Focus on the educational requirements and knowledge-based exam
- b) Janet Silvester and Ann Burns will compare the curriculums used in the Military, ASHP/ACPE, and Canadian programs in preparation to the next meeting.
- c) Next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2020 from 1P to 4P in Concord NH at 125 Airport Road (NH Hospital Association).

Minutes submitted by Gary Merchant

